



# Clean Water Management Trust Fund Planning Application Rating System

General Statute 143B-135(b) states that the fund shall may develop guidelines in addition to the minimum criteria for awarding grants. To assist with the allocation of grant funds, the following rating system was approved by the full CWMTF Board at their meeting on February 10, 2014, revised June 5, 2018.

## **Rating Overview** – The major components of the rating system are listed below:

### **Section I. Clear need for the planning project with a clear outline and vision of the plan (30%)**

- A. Application clearly defines the need for the project, the purpose and goals for the planning project, and the purpose and goals for any work that would be implemented following the planning project.
- B. Planning project addresses how surface water pollution would be reduced.
- C. Planning project work tasks that will be included in the project scope to achieve the purpose and goals are clearly outlined and described.

### **Section II. Resource Significance, Links to Other Projects and Plans (25%)**

- A. Primary Resource Benefits
- B. Links to other conservation projects and plans (e.g. DWR Basinwide Plan, NC Division of Mitigation Services (formerly EEP), CWMTF, Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan, etc.) in the region/watershed.

### **Section III. Other Public Benefit (10%)**

- A. Recreational Uses and Public Access of the project area
- B. Public or Scientific Education that would be provided by the project
- C. Location Relative to Existing and Future Public Drinking Water Supply

### **Section IV. The degree of indication that the Applicant would implement, in a timely manner, the project that would follow the planning project (15%)**

- A. Project Timeline, including readiness to begin work and time for completion
- B. Status of the match funds required to implement the project that would follow the planning project.

### **Section V. Value (20%)**

- A. Matching resources.

**(Rating System Details below)**

## Rating Details

### Section I. Clear need for the planning project with a clear outline and vision of the plan (max 30 points)

This section evaluates the extent to which the plan would improve or protect water quality, the need for the project and how it would be implemented.

- A. Application clearly defines the need for the project, the purpose and goals for the planning project, and the purpose and goals for any work that would be implemented following the planning project (max 12 points)**
1. Describes the need for the project, (4 points)
  2. Specifies the purpose and goals for the planning project (4 points)
  3. Clearly describes purpose and goals for any work that would be implemented following the planning project (4 points)
- B. Planning project addresses how surface water pollution would be reduced. (max 12 points)**
- The discussion should include but does not have to be limited to the following:
1. Water-quality benefits and reduction of surface water pollution (8 points)
  2. Preserving natural hydrologic connections and relationships (2 points)
  3. Water-quantity/water-supply benefits (2 points)
- C. Planning project work tasks that will be included in the project scope to achieve the purpose and goals are clearly outlined and described. (6 points)**

### Section II. Resource Significance, Links to Other Projects and Plans (25 points)

- A. Primary Resource Benefits (points in this subsection will be awarded based on the highest level for which the project qualifies. Max 20 points)**

#### *20 Points*

Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW) classification or eligible for ORW classification  
Impaired waters identified by the Division of Water Resources and on the 303(d) list  
Classified shellfishing SA approved for harvest by the Division of Environmental Health

#### *17 Points*

High Quality Waters classification – does not include HQW “by definition” such as WSI, II or SA waters  
Wild trout as designated by the Wildlife Resources Commission  
Excellent bioclassification as determined by the Division of Water Resources  
Water Supply I classification  
Water Supply II classification  
Water Supply Critical Area classification  
Future surface water supply that has received Record of Decision within 5 miles downstream

#### *14 Points*

Classified shellfishing SA conditionally approved for harvest by the Division of Environmental Health  
Streams supporting species listed as Federally Threatened or Endangered  
Water Supply III classification  
Water Supply IV classification  
Primary Nursery Areas identified by the Division of Marine Fisheries  
Inland Primary Nursery Areas identified by the Wildlife Resources Commission  
Future surface drinking water supply intake or reservoir within 5 miles downstream has  
Division of Water Resources concurrence

*11 Points*

Division of Coastal Management exceptional wetland  
Division of Water Resources unique wetland  
Nutrient Sensitive Waters classification  
Water Supply V classification  
Surface Drinking Water Susceptibility Rating of “Higher”

*8 Points*

B stream classification  
Drinking Water Susceptibility Rating of “Moderate”  
National Scenic Waters  
National Heritage River  
National Seashore, National or State Park, National Wildlife Refuge, Coastal Preserve

*5 Points*

Good bioclassification as determined by the Division of Water Resources  
Trout classification

*2 Points*

Other SA (not approved or conditionally approved for harvest)  
Surface Drinking Water Susceptibility Rating of “Lower”

**B. Links to other conservation projects and plans (e.g. DWR Basinwide Plan, NC Division of Mitigation Services (formerly EEP), CWMTF, Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan, etc.) in the region/watershed. (Max. 5 points)**

1. Project is <1 mile from one of these (5 points)
2. Project is 1 mile or up to 3 miles from one of these (3 points)
3. Project is more than 3 miles and up to 4 miles from one of these (2 points)
4. Project is more than 4 miles or up to 5 miles from one of these (1 point)
5. Project is >5 miles from one of these (0 points)

**Section III. Other Public Benefits (10 points)**

**A. Recreational Uses and Public Access of the project area (3 points)**

1. Improves recreational use related to water (e.g. fishing, boating) and the recreational use(s) has public access; and/or will establish a greenway or improve an existing greenway. (3 points)
2. No recreational or greenway component (0 points)

**B. Public or Scientific Education that would be provided by the project (Max 2 points)**

1. Part of an organized educational effort open to public or educational institutions and active promotion by outreach, which could include a presence on the internet (e.g. a website) and/or signage, etc. at the project site. (2 points)
2. Either the project is part of an organized educational effort open to public or educational institutions, or it is part of active promotion by outreach, which could include a presence on the internet (e.g. a website) and/ or signage, etc. at the project site. (1 point)
3. No educational component (0 points)

**C. Location Relative to Existing and Future Public Drinking Water Supply (Max 5 points)**

1. Existing surface drinking water supply (reservoir or intake), within 5 miles downstream. (5 points)
2. Future surface water supply that has received Record of Decision (reservoir or intake), within 5 miles downstream (3 points)
3. Future surface drinking water supply (reservoir or intake) within 5 miles downstream has Division of Water Resources concurrence (2 points)

**Section IV. The degree of indication that the Applicant would implement, in a timely manner, the project that would follow the planning project (15 points)**

This section evaluates the extent to which the applicant is ready to begin work and is prepared to provide the resources (e.g. funds, services, equipment, and access to land) needed to implement the project that would follow the planning project.

**A. Project Timeline, including readiness to begin work and time for completion (Max. 10 points)**

Proposed schedule for conducting the project that includes a chart or a graphic that shows the planned timing, duration of each task relative to a projected start date, and the timing relationships among the tasks; and an accompanying narrative that summarizes the timeline and identifies circumstances or conditions that could delay project completion.

1. Applicant has already done significant preliminary planning work and has necessary approvals from appropriate officials (e.g. Town Council, Board of Trustees, etc.) and has provided a feasible strategy and schedule for obtaining funding to proceed with implementing the project (10 points)
2. Applicant has already done significant preliminary planning work or has necessary approvals from appropriate officials (e.g. Town Council, Board of Trustees, etc.) to proceed with implementing the project (7 points)
3. Applicant has not done any work or obtained approvals yet but will be ready to begin work on the project promptly upon completion of the planning project (4 points)
4. There may be delays getting started with the project that would follow the planning project (0 points)

**B. Status of the match funds required to implement the project that would follow the planning project. (Max. 5 points)**

1. Portion of the proposed matching resources that are already available and committed to the project:  
Points Score = % Committed x 0.05

**Section V. Value (0-20 points)**

**A. Matching Resources (Max. 20 points)** - Matching resources will be given a value based on the percentage and source of match. Any fraction in the final total will be rounded up.

1. Cash, non-profit & private funds, bargain sale and donated easements = % of total x 0.22
2. Federal and local government funds = % of total x 0.18
3. Other State funds = % of total x 0.14

**Section V example:** In this example, the request is for \$40K from CWMTF with matching resources coming in the form of cash from a land trust and bargain sale from the landowner (\$30K), and from a Federal grant (\$30K):

<u>Match source</u>	<u>Match (%)</u>		<u>Multiplier</u>	<u>Points</u>
1. Cash / non-profit / private funds/ bargain sale / donated easements	30%	x	0.22	6.6
2. Federal / local government funds	30%	x	0.18	5.4
3. Other State funds	0%	x	0.14	<u>0</u>
<b>Total =</b>				<b>12.0</b>